



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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## United Arab Emirates

### FAIRS Subject Report

### Final Details of New UAE Labeling Requirement Still Being Finalized

**2008**

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**Report Highlights:**

UAE officials are still in the process of developing a "mechanism" for the application of the new Arabic labeling requirement scheduled for implementation on April 24, 2008. Final labeling requirements should be available within a few weeks. The Emirate of Dubai has held meetings with local importers to hear their feedback and ATO Dubai has submitted a letter raising several issues. Officials have indicated that they will be flexible in the early stages of implementation. Exporters should work closely with their importers over the next few weeks until the final procedures are available.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Annual Report  
Dubai [TC1]  
[TC]

The UAE's new Arabic labeling requirement is scheduled for full implementation on April 24, 2008. However, local officials are still working through the details of how the decree will be enforced. In meetings with local regulators, ATO Dubai has learned that officials are still in the process of developing a "mechanism" for implementation that will standardize requirements across all seven emirates and establish procedures for inspectors to follow. Dubai has taken the lead in developing the mechanism and met with 25 major food importers last week to obtain their input. Dubai now plans to consult with the Emirate of Abu Dhabi before presenting the proposed requirements to the other emirates.

ATO Dubai anticipates that the mechanism will be finalized several weeks after April 24 and will address issues such as the use of Arabic stickers, relabeling of imported products in the UAE, labeling of samples, labeling of goods destined for the catering industry, and label content in addition to other questions. ATO Dubai submitted a letter several weeks ago to the General Secretariat of Municipalities urging officials to continue allowing the use of Arabic stickers, to exempt products destined for the catering and hotel sectors, and to allow for labeling of products in the UAE. Based on subsequent meetings with officials it appears that they are considering these points.

Local officials indicate that they will be flexible during the early stages of implementation given the delay in finalizing procedures and they are aware that many shipments are already underway to the UAE and may arrive without appropriate Arabic labeling. If exporters are not currently labeling their products in Arabic, either by sticker or directly on the packaging, ATO Dubai recommends that they work closely with their importers during this period to determine what their labels should contain, or in the case of food service products, whether the products should include an Arabic label. ATO Dubai will continue to monitor this situation and will report the final requirements as soon as we have them.

For additional background, see TC8004

<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200803/146293857.pdf>